

THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

POST OFFICE BOX 1075

PEMBROKE N.C. 28372

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1980

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 43

25c PER COPY

INDIAN VOICE EDITOR ARRESTED AT LREMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING -Charged With Trespassing-

by Bruce Barton

Red Springs-Bruce Barton, this reporter and editor of The Carolina Indian Voice, was arrested at a board of directors meeting of the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation Tuesday afternoon.

I was attempting to cover a meeting of the board of directors to find out more about a report that two employees had filed racial discrimination charges against Paul Dallas, the manager of the Lake Rim District Office in Cumberland County.

According to Ronnie Hunt, manager of office and staff services, a suit has been filed with the corporation and the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission in Raleigh by two employees. He refused to divulge their names saying that it was a personnel matter. But he did admit that Paul Dallas, the district manager of the Lake Rim Office in Cumberland County, began a leave on October 21, 1980. Earl Belcher, manager of engineering and operations, has assumed the duties of acting district manager with Edith Galbreth, a Black

LREMC staffer, assuming the day to day supervisory responsibilities at the Lake Rim Office.

Derl Hinson, general manager, was not available to the press as we prepared this issue.

The two employees, both reportedly women—one a Black and the other an Indian—charge that they have been discriminated against in regard to employment and the way they were treated in relation to the other employees in the Lake Rim Office.

But I was arrested when I entered the sumptuous board room of the electric co-op Tuesday afternoon.

Britt Smith, who is the electric coop's attorney, immediately confronted me when I entered the board room. He did not smile even slightly when I responded to his query "What can we do for you?" by replying "How about a chair?"

Smith said, "Our meetings are not

open to the public..." and he immediately suggested to the board members that "we stop right here..."

I stated that I felt the press had a right to attend the board meetings because state and federal monies are expended and exclusivity is not the prerogative of any agency that uses taxpayers monies.

I also objected to being denied access to the meeting because I am also a member of the electric coop by virtue of my being on the lines in the Deep Branch area where I reside.

I asked that the minutes reflect my views and the board be polled on how they voted on whether I could attend the meeting or not.

Smith said abruptly that the board did not have to vote on the matter because I did not have a right to attend.

I refused to leave, and finally, Smith said, "Call the police. If you will not

leave voluntarily then we will use whatever means are at our disposal to remove you from our meeting."

Bill Brewington, a board member, piped up, "Let me say, Bruce, as a friend and as one who was once considered a radical...the lawyer is right...I spent \$300 to find out he is right. You do not have the right to attend our meeting."

J.W. Hunt, another board member, offered a motion that "we go into executive session."

I injected, "You can't go into an executive meeting just because you want to—you have to state a reason..."

But Smith disagreed, "I've tried to tell you...we don't have to give you anything... you have no right to be here..."

Shortly thereafter Luther W. Haggins, the chief of the Red Springs Police Department arrived. At the request of Britt Smith, the attorney, Derl Hinson, the general manager, asked me to leave the board room. I refused for previously stated reasons.

At that time Chief Haggins transported me to the Red Springs Police Department and charged me with trespassing. I was released on my own recognizance and summonsed to Red Springs District Court on November 4 to answer the complaint.

Haggins said, after charging me with trespassing, "You can return to the reception area and wait...but if you enter the board room you probably will be arrested again..."

I returned to the co-op and sent a note to Rev. Elias Rogers, the president of the Board of Directors. The note read:

"I respectfully request a copy of the

minutes of the board meeting of LREMC's directors held on Tuesday evening, Oct. 21, 1980, commencing at 3 p.m.

"I also respectfully request:
1. Your statutory grounds for refusing me admittance to said meeting;
2-a roll call vote on the "Vote" denying me access to said meeting;
3-Please have minutes reflect my objection to excluding me from said meeting;
4-Please have minutes reflect my status as a member."

During a recess Rogers and Smith, the attorney, approached me and Smith informed me that the board would comply with the requests stated in my note to Rogers.

The 12 member board of directors is composed of 10 Indians, 1 Black and 1 White. The vote to exclude me from the meeting was reportedly 7 to 3 against allowing me to attend. An informal polling of the board indicates that board members Timothy Strickland, Gus Bullard and Alton Dudley, voted to allow me to attend the meeting.

President Rogers was reportedly in favor of me attending the meeting but as President he can only vote in case of a tie. Harold Dean Brewer, another board member, was not present for the meeting.

All other members reportedly voted against allowing me to attend the meeting. They are: Davis Parker, the only White on the board of directors; and Indians James H. Hammonds, John Paul Jones, Bill Brewington, Marcia Lowry, Bradford Oxendine and J.W. Hunt.

Sources indicate that trouble is brewing at the corporation with the board reportedly voting at its last board meeting to retain Hinson as general manager on a slim 7-5 vote.

BANQUET IN HONOR OF CARNELL LOCKLEAR SET FOR OCT. 30 -Let's Send Carnell to Hollywood-

Pembroke-The banquet in honor of Carnell "Boss Strong" Locklear is set for October 30 at the Pembroke Senior High School Cafeteria. The awaited affair begins at 7:30 p.m. The theme of the drive, spearheaded by Bruce Barton and the newly organized First American Showcase, Inc., is "Let's Send Carnell Locklear to Hollywood."

Audition dates are being scheduled with legitimate entertainment people in Hollywood circles. Carnell will be going to Hollywood sometime during the month of November.

He is also scheduled to begin as general manager of "Strike at the Wind" December 1. Carnell is realistic



Rev. John A. Robinson, Jr., director of the Pembroke Area Presbyterian Ministry in Pembroke, is one of a number of Carnell Locklear fans selling tickets to the banquet October 30 at Pembroke Senior High. Tickets are also available from the offices of the Carolina Indian Voice in Pembroke. A number of Pembroke Jaycees and Carnell enthusiasts are selling tickets to the glamorous affair.

Robinson is shown recently at a meeting of the sponsoring non-profit First American Showcase, Inc. where a progress report was received and where Robinson filmed Carnell in action. The video films, which are being provided by the area ministry Robinson heads, are being provided so that producers and other people in the entertainment industry may be able to see Carnell in action as they consider his talent. (Elmer Hunt photos)



Carnell Locklear is ready to entertain his legion of fans next Thursday night, October 30, when he will highlight the evening in his honor. The banquet will be held October 30, 1980 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Pembroke Senior High School.

about his chances in Hollywood. "I know my chances are about one in a million...but those are good odds in America where one can become whatever he (or she) wants to become if one is prepared to pay the costs in hard work and better in oneself."

Both Governor Jim Holshouser and Congressman Charlie Rose have contacted Hollywood sources in behalf of Carnell. Both are strong supporters of Carnell and "Strike at the Wind," the local outdoor drama featuring the exploits of Henry Berry Lowrie and the people—red black and white—of Robeson County.

Herman Dial, chairman of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners, also speaks highly of Carnell: "He (Carnell) is the kind of person who will not take 'no' for an answer...and he wants to be a star...that's a tough combination to beat," says Dial.

Gov. Holshouser, Congressman Rose and Commissioner Dial are scheduled as the speakers at the extravaganza which will also feature an appearance by Miss Lumbee, the beautiful Brigitte Brayboy, and a concert by the honoree of the evening—Carnell Locklear.

The master of ceremonies will be Rev. Julian Ransom, who has been in "Strike at the Wind" with Carnell Locklear since the outdoor drama's inception in 1976. Rev. Ransom is pastor of Cherokee Chapel Methodist Church and also doubles as purchasing agent at PSU.

Tickets are still available and can be purchased by writing: First American Showcase, Inc., P.O. Box 1075, Pembroke, NC 28372. Tickets may also be purchased at the offices of the Carolina Indian Voice located on Highway 711 in the Revels Motel Office Complex or from any member of the Pembroke Jaycees. A number of local Carnell Locklear adherents are also selling tickets. Tickets will also be available at the door the night of the banquet. Cost is \$25.00 per couple and \$15.00 per single.

Elmer
Hunt
Photos

...SPOTLIGHT!

EDITOR'S NOTE: As a public service and in recognition of the stellar service provided by the completely volunteer Pembroke Rescue Squad, the Carolina Indian Voice, beginning this week, is initiating a public relations campaign to let you know what the Pembroke Rescue Squad is doing to make our community a better place to live in.

We are providing biographical sketches of the members of the service oriented organization and historical notes and pictures and features.

The campaign will culminate with the Grand Opening of the new facilities located on Union Chapel Road. We will be telling you more about that in the weeks ahead. Tentative plans are to hold the Grand Opening of the new facilities sometime in November.

We are beginning this week with some biographical sketches of the members of Pembroke Rescue Squad.

SOME BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES...

Eva Sampson is married to Ned Sampson. They have four children. She is employed at Pembroke State University as a nurse. Eva joined the Pembroke Rescue Squad in September, 1977. She is a member of the Educational and Training Committee.

Robert Chavis is married to the former Janie Marie Oxendine. They have three children. He is employed by REA Magnet Wire of Laurinburg as a machine operator. He joined the Squad June 16, 1977.

Robert Brayboy is married to the former Helen Strickland and they have four children. He is employed by Pembroke State University as Supervisor of House Keeping. He joined the Squad October 7, 1976.

James P. Brewington is married to the former Hazel Oxendine and they have two children. He is employed by the State of North Carolina as a magistrate. He joined Pembroke Rescue Squad October 7, 1976.

PEOPLE AND PLACES AND THINGS

HALLOWEEN TEEN DISCO SLATED

The Saddletree Jaycees are sponsoring a Halloween Teen Disco Night Friday, Oct. 24, from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. at the Saddletree Jaycees Club House. Ages are 12 through 18 and admission is \$1.50.

PINEY GROVE PTA TO HOLD PLATE SALE

Piney Grove Elementary School's PTA will be holding their annual plate sale Oct. 31 from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. at the school. They will be serving homecooked barbecue and southern fried chicken for \$2.50 per plate. The Piney Grove Elementary School Halloween Carnival will also be held the same night.

Wonderland Students visit Various Sites

Children at Wonderland Child Care Center observed Fire Prevention Week recently by participating in planned activities. A volunteer fireman, representing the Pembroke Fire Department, visited the school and talked with each class about his role as a community helper. Following each class discussion, the children enjoyed seeing and hearing his fire truck.

School age children who attended Wonderland Child Care Center during the summer months participated in learning experiences away from the center which proved to be both enjoyable and informative. Using a school bulletin board, the children shared their experiences thru written stories and pictures they prepared.

During the week's observance the four-year-old class toured the Lumberton Fire Dept. and learned much about being a fireman, living at the fire station and helping to prevent fires.

The field trips to Lumberton included visiting the ice cream shop, two pet shops, the fire department, Pinocchio Puppet Show, two city parks, South-eastern General Hospital and MacDonald's. Visits made in their hometown included the fire department and ambulance service, the town park, the Native American Indian Museum and the new elementary school. In all these learning experiences, the children were joined by Peggy B. Brewington, Director.



Pictured are children and teachers in the four-year-old class.



Pictured are Kim DeCarlo, Kevin Oxendine, Mary Beth Sampson, Joel Brewington, Janice Warrick, Doris Locklear, Lela Ann Brooks and Raymond Dixon. Not pictured but participating were Gary Thomas, Bobby Brayboy, Doris Hunt, Mark Pender, and Felicia Oxendine.